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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gen. Myers: Muslim troops will be good for Iraq - Milliyet
Ambassador Edelman: We've got tasks in Iraq [other than the
PKK] - Hurriyet
Edelman says U.S. pressured EU re KADEX - Aksam
Bush clears Saddam on involvement in 9/11 - Posta
Gul: GOT will take the final decision on Iraq - DB-Tercuman
U.S. troops fire at AP car in Iraq - DB-Tercuman
Arafat urges Ankara to continue support - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

GOT believes UN condition not necessary for troop deployment
in Iraq - Radikal
Bush admits Saddam not connected to 9/11 - Cumhuriyet
Edelman is asked about KADEX - Yeni Safak
Edelman: U.S. will handle the PKK in due time - Zaman
KADEX not on EU terror list - Yeni Safak
Arafat: I'm ready to become a martyr - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

NSC to discuss Iraq: All dailies expect today's National Security Council (NSC) meeting to decide whether Turkey needs a parliamentary motion to deploy peacekeepers in Iraq. However, papers do not expect the NSC to adopt a concrete decision on the issue. Since the U.S. has not given a written guarantee for elimination of the PKK, the NSC will not announce a decision on Iraq, writes "Hurriyet." Foreign Minister Gul said a UN decision envisaging an international peacekeeping mandate in Iraq would be helpful, but that the final decision would be made by the GOT. "Zaman" expects the government to clear its position after the meeting on Friday even if the NSC remains silent on troop deployment. "Radikal" says that President Sezer and Prime Minister Erdogan do not agree on whether UN approval is needed before Turkey sends peacekeeping troops to Iraq. Both are expected to express their differences at the NSC meeting today.

Military awaiting government decision for Iraq: The TGS has completed military preparations on September 14 for deploying peacekeepers in Iraq, and is waiting for a decision by the government, according to "Milliyet."

Ambassador Edelman meets DYP leadership: All papers and TVs report U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Eric Edelman's courtesy visit to the True Path Party (DYP) on Thursday. Responding to press questions after meeting with the DYP leadership, Ambassador Edelman said the U.S. had always extended strong support to Turkey regarding the PKK problem, and reminded that Turkey had carried out the operation for capturing the PKK leader Ocalan in cooperation with the U.S. Edelman noted that KADEX had been put on the U.S. terror list within months after its founding, and added that Washington was now putting pressure on EU countries to do the same. He also said that President Bush had voiced open commitment for ending terror in Iraq. Nevertheless, U.S. troops cannot accomplish several goals at the same time, Edelman pointed out. Talks between the U.S. and Turkey will continue regarding the PKK presence in Northern Iraq, he stressed. "I'm sure that progress is possible as long as the parties

demonstrate good will,' Edelman said.

Americans disappointed by Turks' PKK condition: U.S. has given Turkey the message that it wanted to see the results of the partial amnesty declared by Ankara for terror organization defectors, writes "Hurriyet." The U.S. is hoping to see a decrease in the number of PKK/KADEK militants in the region by encouraging them to apply for amnesty, according to Hurriyet. The Americans are annoyed that the GOT was demanding the elimination of PKK before deploying troops in Iraq, the paper comments. Americans believe that operations against the PKK would be easier once security is established throughout Iraq, and they stress that Turkish troops were needed for security in Iraq, says Hurriyet.

Ankara shelves Customs Union agreement with TRNC: A Customs Union agreement that was signed between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) will not be submitted to the parliament for approval, Foreign Minister Gul told the EU countries, reports "Hurriyet." Ankara had to step back in the face of strong opposition from EU members, according to Hurriyet. The agreement was signed early August in an effort to help the TRNC overcome international economic sanctions.

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Confusion over Iraq"

Taha Akyol observed in the mass appeal Milliyet (9/19): "Turkish troops have accomplished social successes in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. . Those who wish Iraq to become another Vietnam are dreaming. Iraq's geography and demography do not provide a suitable ground for it. Ethnic and religious civil wars might erupt in Iraq, which will mean catastrophe for all including Turkey. Such a catastrophe would bring a politically costlier bill for the U.S. than the Vietnam war. Turkey could play a significant role in bringing stability to Iraq, but such a contribution depends on an American assurance to eliminate the PKK presence in the region."

"Turkey going into Iraq to guard Turkish currency"

Mehmet Ali Birand commented in the mass appeal Posta (9/19): "No matter how much Turkey will protest it, a sovereign Kurdish state in Northern Iraq will come into existence if Washington and Tel Aviv one day agree on it. . Our troops to be deployed in Iraq can neither fight against Kurds to block their independence, nor launch any operation against the will of the U.S. forces in the region. In the same sense, Turkey cannot carry out plans such as supporting the Turkomen or eliminating the PKK militants. All the Turkish troops might accomplish could be gaining prestige and throwing its weight around. A negative development like drawing the anger of the Bush Administration will be enough to disrupt the already fragile Turkish economy. . Interest rates will rise, and inflation will soar again. However, a Turkey ready to deploy troops in Iraq will easily find support to recover its economy. A Turkey ready to deploy troops in Iraq will make Washington regard the PKK issue from a different viewpoint. To sum up, Turkish troops will be going into Iraq to protect Turkish currency."

EDELMAN